

INFORMATION REPORT

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2. Over-All Strength of Chinese Communist Armed Forces

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1. The organization of the Chinese Communist Army as of early November 1950 is as follows:
 - a. The Chinese Communist Army Supreme Headquarters is the highest commanding organ.
 - b. The four field armies and one army group are directly subordinate to the Supreme Headquarters.
 - c. Each field army is organized into a number of army groups, depending primarily upon the number of men and quantity of equipment captured during its campaign against the Nationalist Army.
 - d. Each army group is organized into three or four armies, plus one regiment of guards.
 - e. Each army is organized into three divisions, one artillery battalion (consisting of four companies), and one battalion of guards.
 - f. Each division is organized into three regiments, one mountain gun company, and a company of guards.
 - g. Each regiment is organized into three battalions, one mortar company and one platoon of guards.
 - h. Each battalion is organized into three companies of infantry, one heavy machine gun company, a platoon of light artillery and one squad of guards.
 - i. Each company is organized into three platoons.
 - j. Each platoon is organized into three squads.
 - k. Each squad comprises 12 soldiers.

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1. Special troops include cavalry, artillery, engineers, tank units and other categories. Each field army may have a special army group or division under its direct command, depending primarily upon the number of men and quantity of equipment captured in previous campaigns. Special troops may be assigned in whole or in part to the various army groups within the field army.

2. The Chinese Communist Army uses the following terminology:

a. An army is a "strategic unit". An army assigned to an army group within a field army may at any time be assigned to another army group within that field army for combat purposes. For example, during preparations for the attack [redacted] the 25 Army of the 8 Army Group of the 3 Field Army was sent to Fukien for assignment to the 10 Army Group; consequently, the 10 Army Group commanded four armies while the 8 Army Group commanded only two. Since the army is the "strategic unit", divisions are not separated from one army for assignment to another.

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b. A battalion is a "tactical unit".

c. A squad is a "combat unit".

3. Units of the Chinese Communist Army are organized as follows:

- a. The four field armies and one army group (the 20 Army Group stationed at Tientsin) are under the direct command of the Chinese Communist Army Supreme Headquarters. The four field armies comprise 22 army groups, 68 armies, 2 special army groups and 2 special columns.
- b. The 1 Field Army comprises the 1, 2, 3, 19, and 22 Army Groups, which contain the 1 through 9, and the 60, 64, and 65 Armies, seven independent cavalry divisions and a special column (equivalent to an army).*
- c. The 2 Field Army comprises the 4, 5, 6 and 18 Army Groups, which contain the 10 through 19, 60, 61 and 62 Armies and one special column.**
- d. The 3 Field Army comprises the 7 through 11 Army Groups, which contain the 21 through 35 Armies and one special army group.
- e. The 4 Field Army comprises the 12 through 17 and the 21 Army Groups, which contain the 38 through 59 Armies and one special army group.

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4. The strength of the Chinese Communist armed forces (excluding navy and air) is as follows:

- a. The regular army, organized primarily as field armies, totals about 2,720,000 men. It comprises 22 army groups, 2 special columns, and 2 special army groups. Among these units are 68 armies of infantry troops.
- b. Troops belonging to the military districts total about 1,700,000 men organized into 3250 battalions. Each independent regiment of a military district or each regiment of guards is counted as 3 battalions.
- c. Public safety troops total about 420,000 men organized into 42 divisions.
- d. Militia now engaged in productive activities total about 6,150,000 men.

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5. Troops belonging to the military districts are divided approximately as follows:

a. Central and South China District	439,000
b. East China District	394,000
c. Southwest District	232,000
d. North China District (includes Inner Mongolian autonomous Government)	288,500
e. Northeast District	118,000
f. Northwest District	196,000

6. Militia now engaged in productive activities are divided approximately as follows:

a. Central and South China District	1,157,690
b. East China District	1,072,747
c. Southwest District	646,755
d. North China District	2,371,900
e. Northeast District	563,744
f. Northwest District	335,950

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7. The Chinese Communists have divided the sources of recruits for their armed forces into four classifications:

- a. Militia engaged in productive activities.
- b. Militia no longer engaged in productive activities, but who have joined units of the military sub-district for service restricted to a few hsien within that sub-district.
- c. Troops of a military sub-district promoted to troops of the military district.
- d. Troops of military districts organized into units of the field armies.

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* Comment. According to information available to this office, the 1 Field Army comprises the 1, 2, 18, and 19 Army Groups and the 7 and 8 Cavalry Divisions.

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** Comment. According to information available to this office, the 2 Field Army comprises the 3, 4, 5, and 6 Army Groups.

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*** Comment. The figures in paragraphs 4-7 indicate that the Chinese Communists have 2,720,000 men immediately available for front-line combat duty. Since it takes about three months to convert troops of a military district to field army forces, the front-line combat strength after three months can be increased to 4,420,000 men, not including public safety forces. It takes nine months to convert militia into units of military district or field army troops. Therefore, Chinese Communist front-line combat strength can be increased to about 10,000,000 men in about nine months.

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